

By
cancel.

storing the summary information at the plurality of viewer stations;
accessing and displaying the programming information at an individual user station in response to a request from a viewer of the individual user station to display the program guide;
obtaining a user selection at the individual user station, the user selection indicating a currently selected program within the program guide;
in response to a user selection of a currently available program, displaying at the individual user station the currently available program simultaneously with the program guide; and
in response to a user selection of one of the at least one of the future programs, accessing and displaying at the individual user station the summary information for the selected program simultaneously with the program guide.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the specification and claims 21, 25, 27, 31 and 37 are amended, and claims 24, 26, 28, 29, 39 and 40 are cancelled. After entry of this Amendment, claims 21-23, 25, 27 and 30-38 will be pending. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Patentability of Claim 40 under § 112

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as lacking antecedent basis. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 40.

Applied Art

U.S. Patent No. 5,731,844 to Rauch et al. ("Rauch") is entitled "Television Scheduling System for Displaying a Grid Representing Scheduled Layout and Selecting a Programming Parameter for Display or Recording."

U.S. Patent No. 6,239,794 to Yuen et al. ("Yuen") is entitled "Method and System for Simultaneously Displaying a Television Program and Information about the Program."

Applicants point out that the text of the Office action incorrectly refers to Rauch as U.S. Patent No. 5,731,884. Because Rauch is correctly referred to as U.S. Patent No. 5,731,844 on Form PTO-892, no correction is believed to be required.

Information Disclosure Statement

The action states that the information disclosure statement filed January 8, 1999, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2) for failing to submit legible copies of the references listed. Applicants note that copies of the references listed on the information disclosure statement were not required due to the fact that they were previously submitted in the parent application 08/969,979. See 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d). However, attached is a copy of the "Designing a Broadband Residential Entertainment Service: A Case Study" publication as requested by examiner. Consideration of this publication on the merits is respectfully requested.

Drawings

As indicated in the marked-up drawings, Fig. 1 has been corrected to include reference sign '202,' Fig. 3B has been corrected to show clearly the characters in the shaded regions, and Figs. 3A and 3B have been corrected in view of the margin requirements.

A complete set of formal drawings, including the corrected figures, is attached.

Patentability of Claims 21-36 under § 102

Claims 21-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(a) as being anticipated by Rauch. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In order for a § 102(a) rejection to be proper, the cited art must show each and every element as set forth in the claim. See MPEP 2131.

Claim 21

The Action rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch. Independent claim 21 is directed to an interactive televideo system and as amended recites, "providing summary information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and comprises display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program . . ."

For instance, as described in the specification at page 9, line 25 – page 10, line 4:

Program Summary Panel 80 includes a preview display window 94 within which interactive station controller 20 renders display imagery relating the focussed programming. The display imagery may include currently available video programming, an on-demand video clip or segment, or a still image...

Rauch fails to show that the claimed summary information may include "a video segment of less than the entire program." Rauch shows displaying a "video representation of the program" or "the program being broadcast." See col. 2 line 26 and col.3 line 18-19, respectively. Rauch also shows displaying "a bitmap representing the selected program or the network logo or a network provided video clip." See col. 7, lines 49-51. Nowhere in Rauch, however, is there any disclosure or teaching of displaying a "video segment of less than the entire program" that is "associated with at least one of the available programs."

Among other benefits, this feature is designed to restrict a viewer from watching an entire program, particularly in the case of a for-fee program, in the preview display window.

Since the cited reference fails to show each and every element recited in claim 21, the § 102(a) rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30 depend from claim 21, and thus are allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Claim 31

The Action rejects claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch. Independent claim 31 is directed to an interactive televideo system and states in part, "retrieving from the memory the programming summary information corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide in response to the obtained indication, wherein the retrieved programming summary information is the most program-specific information available among a plurality of programming summary information options for the selected programming."

For instance, as described in the specification at page 12, lines 22 – page 13, line 10:

Preferably, the digitized video segment relates to the specific episode of the selected programming. If an episode-specific segment is not available, the digitized video segment preferably relates to any program series of which the selected programming is a part. If a series-specific segment is not available, the digitized video segment preferably relates to the channel carrying or broadcasting the selected programming.

Rauch fails to show that the retrieved programming summary information is "the most program-specific information available among a plurality of programming summary options." Rauch shows displaying the currently broadcast program if it is possible, otherwise displaying "a blank window, or, alternatively, a bitmap representing the selected program or the network logo or a network provided video clip." See col. 7, lines 36-51. Rauch also shows "display in the

picture-in-graphics display window 240 the bitmap identified in the bitmap identifier field 350 of the selected program (if the bitmap exists), or a blank window (if the bitmap does not exist)."

See col. 10, lines 44-48. However, Rauch does not show or suggest the claimed logical hierarchy in which the most program-specific summary information available is selected for display. This feature provides the viewer specific information about a program that is available according to a systematic approach.

Since the cited reference fails to show each and every element recited in claim 31, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 32-36 depend from claim 31, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 37

The Action rejects claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch. Independent claim 37 is directed to an interactive televideo system and states, "providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations summary information, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program..."

As discussed above in connection with claim 21, Rauch does not disclose or even suggest displaying a video segment of less than an entire program.

Accordingly, claim 37 is not anticipated by Rauch, and the rejection should be withdrawn.


Claim 38 depends from claim 37, and thus is allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Should the Examiner require additional information to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-Up Version of Claims and Specification Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) and (c)**In the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 22 as follows:

Decision block 116 represents an inquiry as to whether the selected programming is currently being broadcast and available to the user. Availability of the selected programming relates, for example, to whether the viewer is a subscriber to the selected programming. Decision block 116 proceeds to process block 118 whenever the selected program is currently being broadcast and available to the user and otherwise proceeds to process block ~~120~~ 122.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 2 as follows:

The method described above is directed to an IT system 10 in which selected information is stored at and retrieved from EPG database 102 or EPG preview server 131 at central control node 12. The benefits of the present invention could also be achieved in IT systems having some or all of the selected information stored at and retrieved from interactive station controllers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 8 as follows:

Table 1 below lists the preferred display imagery rendered in preview display window 94 of program summary panel ~~80~~ 92 for different types of programming on IT system 10. The display imagery in preview display window 94 preferably is the currently broadcasting programming for focused programming available to the viewer. Programming available to the viewer includes the programming to which the viewer subscribes, including premium programming services.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 13 as follows:

FIG. 6 is a front view of a display screen 78 of an exemplary video display set 18 showing icons 150 that are selectively rendered individually or together within the text description window ~~96~~ 94 of program summary panel ~~80~~ 90. It will be appreciated that icons 150 are exemplary and that different icons representing the same or different information may be used in accordance with the present invention.

In the Claims:

21. **(Amended)** In an interactive televideo system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming included in the programming guide, comprising:

providing programming information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, the programming information including at least the identities of a plurality of available programs;

providing summary information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, **wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and comprises display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;**

storing the programming information at the interactive station controller;

storing the summary information at the interactive station controller;

accessing the programming information and displaying the programming information in the programming guide on the video display;

obtaining a user selection indication corresponding to programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

accessing in response to the user selection indication the summary information relating to the programming selected by the viewer; and

displaying the program summary information.

22. **(Unchanged)** The method of claim 21 in which the summary information includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

23. **(Unchanged)** The method of claim 22 in which the displaying of the summary information includes displaying the text description in a text description window.

24. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 21 in which the summary information includes display imagery relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

25. **(Amended)** The method of claim ~~24~~ **21** in which the displaying of the summary information includes displaying the display imagery in a preview display window.

26. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 24 in which the display imagery includes a multi-frame video segment relating to the program selected by the viewer.

27. **(Amended)** The method of claim ~~26~~ **21** in which the selected programming is transmitted from the central control node when the programming is selected by the viewer and the ~~multi-frame~~ video segment includes the transmitted selected programming.

28. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 26 in which the multi-frame video segment includes a preselected video segment that relates to the selected programming and is less than the entire selected programming.

29. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 24 in which the display imagery is a single image frame relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

30. **(Unchanged)** The method of claim 21 in which the summary information includes a text description and display imagery relating to the program selected by the viewer.

31. **(Amended)** In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming included in the programming guide, comprising:

obtaining from the central control node programming summary information that relates to programming available to a viewer, the program summary information including at least a plurality of images, each image being related to at least one of the available programming;

storing the programming summary information in a memory associated with the interactive station controller system;

obtaining an indication of programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

retrieving from the memory the programming summary information corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide in response to the obtained indication, **wherein the retrieved programming summary information is the most program-specific information available among a plurality of programming summary information options for the selected programming;** and

displaying the **retrieved** programming summary information for the viewer on a video display set.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31 in which the summary information further includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer and at least some of the images are video segments.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 32 in which the text description and video segment are displayed in, respectively, a text description window and a preview display window that are displayed adjacent each other.

34. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31 in which the programming summary information is displayed simultaneously with the programming guide.

35. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31 in which the programming summary information displayed for the viewer includes an icon indicating a predetermined characteristic of the selected programming.

36. (Unchanged) The method of claim 35 in which the predetermined characteristic of the selected programming is selectively cued by the viewer.

37. (**Amended**) In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide listing programming available to a viewer, a method of displaying summary information at an individual user station, comprising:

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations programming information, the programming information including an identification of a plurality of programs currently available from the central control node and an identification of a plurality of future programs that will be available from the central control node at a future time;

storing the programming information at the plurality of viewer stations;

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations summary information, **wherein** the summary information **is associated with at least one of the available programs and display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program** ~~comprising a plurality of images associated with at least one of the available programs;~~

storing the summary information at the plurality of viewer stations;

accessing and displaying the programming information at an individual user station in response to a request from a viewer of the individual user station to display the program guide;

obtaining a user selection at the individual user station, the user selection indicating a currently selected program within the program guide;

in response to a user selection of a currently available program, displaying at the individual user station the currently available program simultaneously with the program guide; and

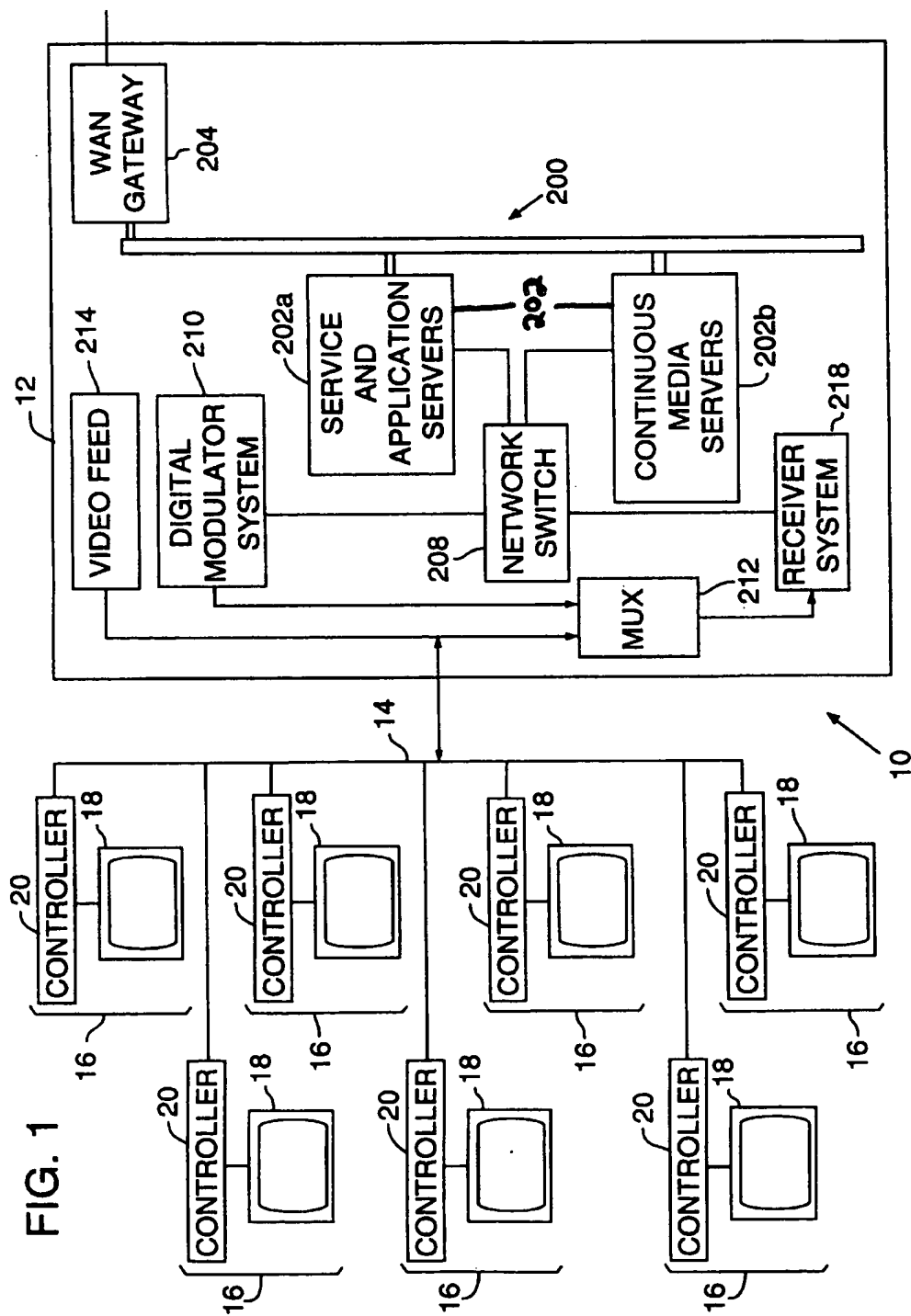
in response to a user selection of one of the at least one of the future programs, accessing and displaying at the individual user station the summary information for the selected program simultaneously with the program guide.

38. (Unchanged) The method of claim 37 in which the summary information includes a text description relating to the programming available to the viewer and the text description is displayed simultaneously with the selected program and the programming guide in response to a user selection of a currently available program.

39. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 37 in which the image is a video segment relating to the associated program.

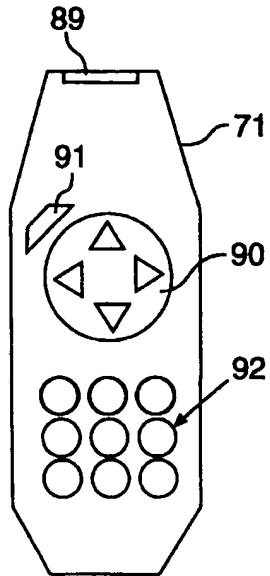
40. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 27 in which the image is a still image relating to the associated program

Amended



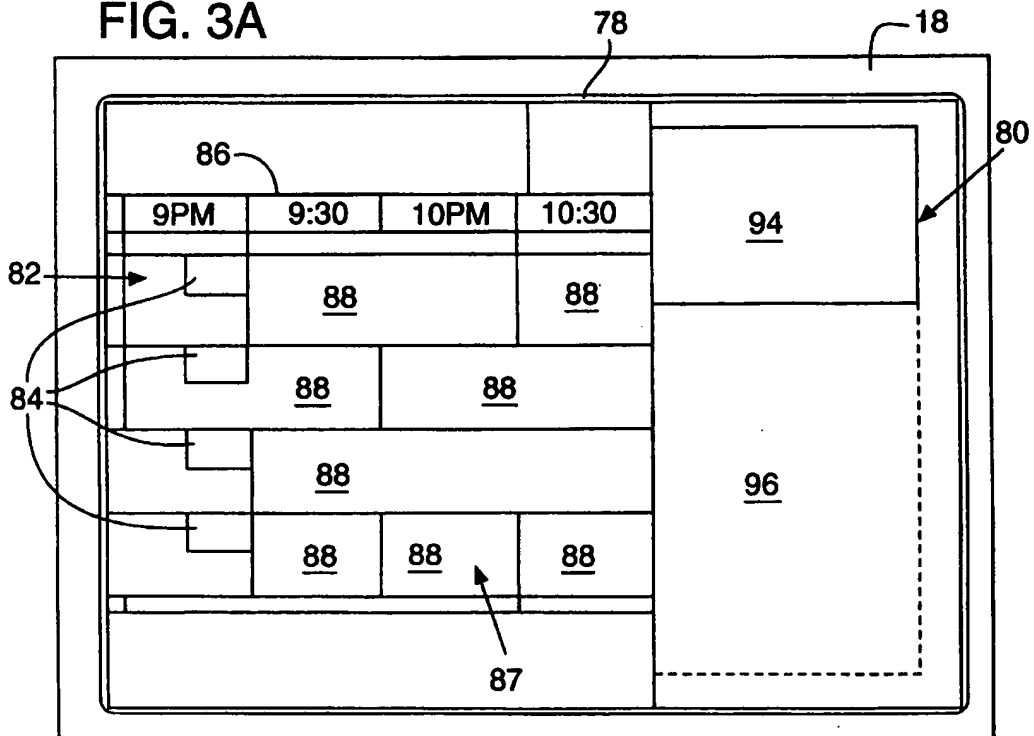
Amended

FIG. 4



Left Margin Corrected

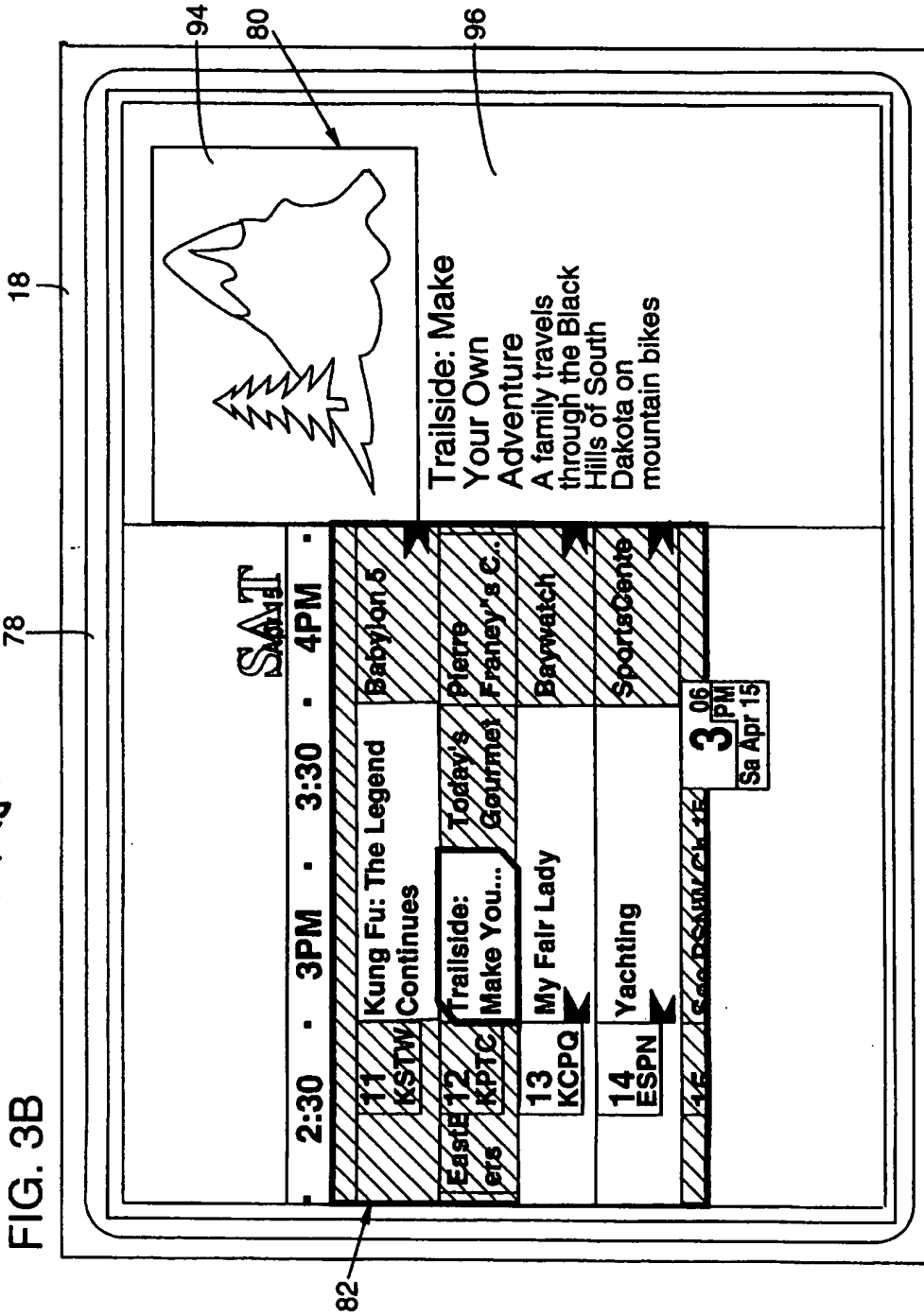
FIG. 3A



Amended

Characters in shaded area changed
so that they are shown clear,
and left margin corrected.

FIG. 3B



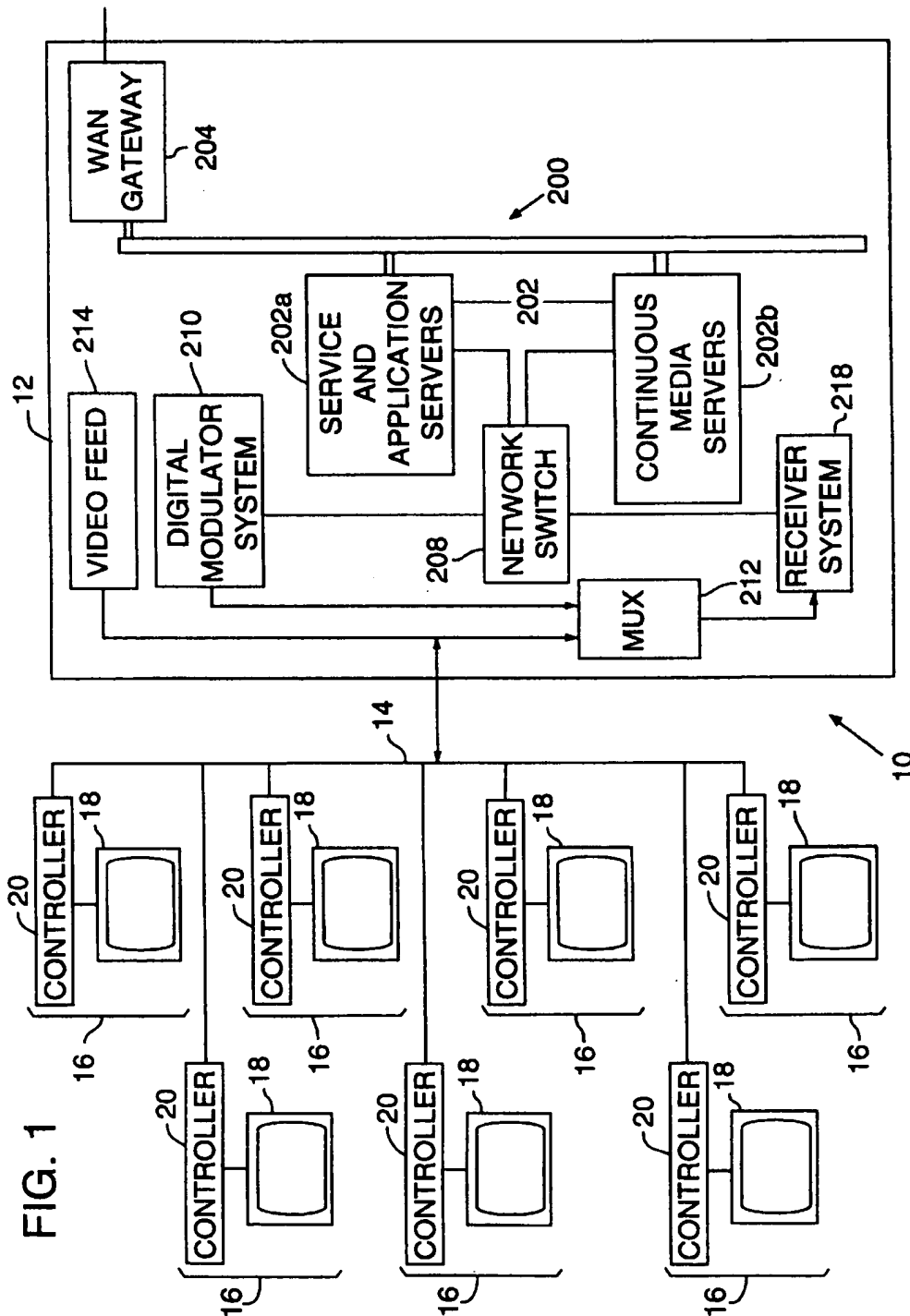


FIG. 2

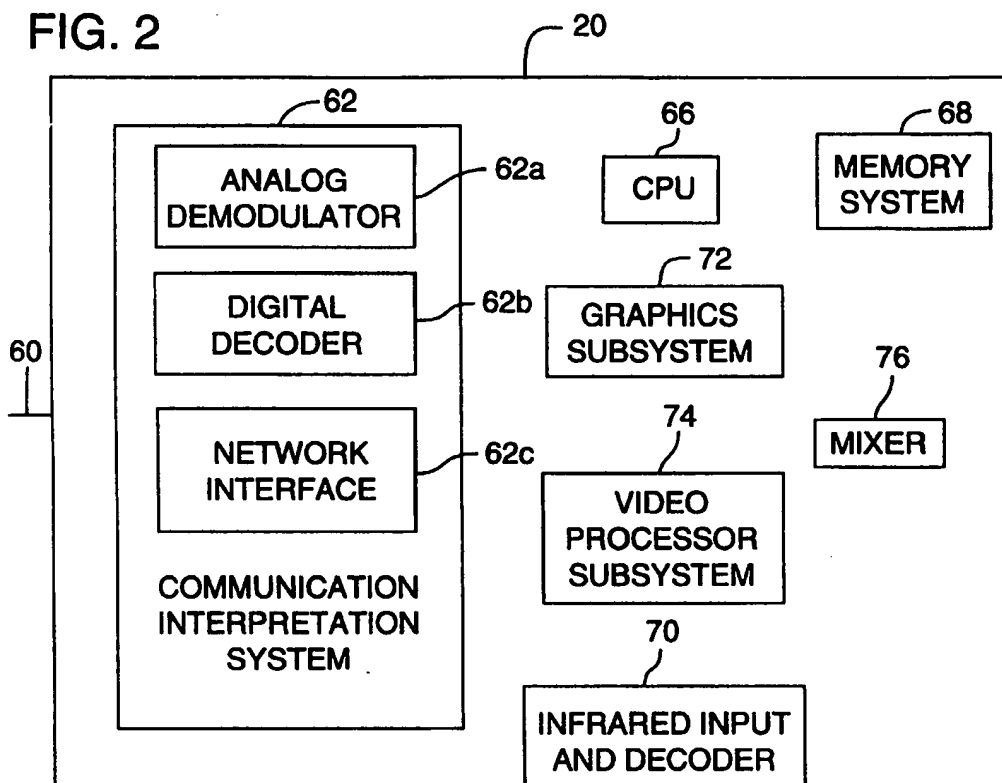


FIG. 6

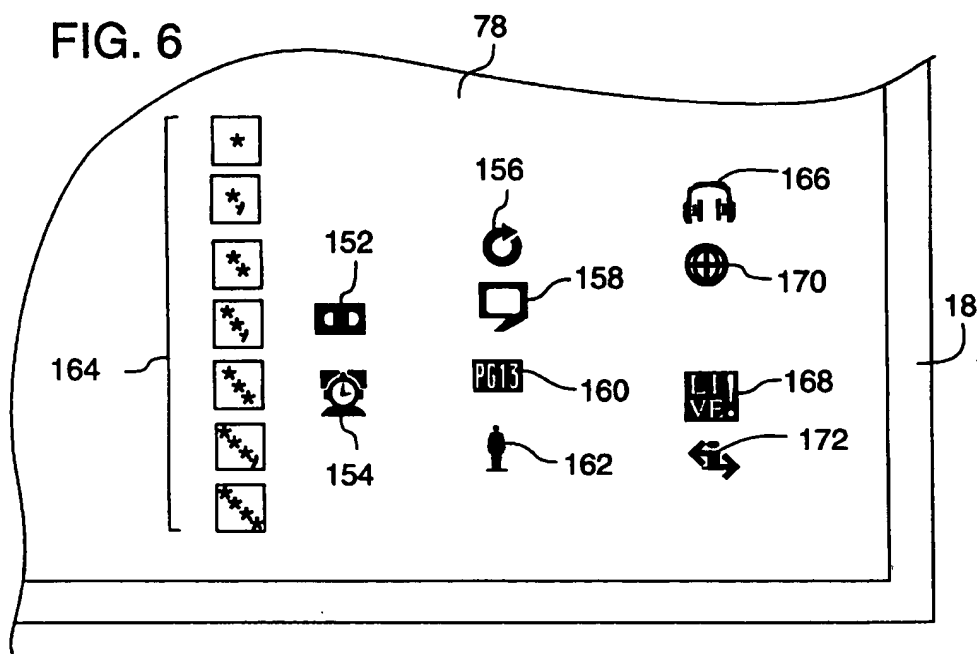


FIG. 3A is a schematic diagram of a television screen 18. The screen displays a grid of program segments. The top row of the grid contains four segments labeled 86, 9PM, 9:30, 10PM, and 10:30. Below these are several rows of segments, some labeled 88. A dashed line 80 is shown on the right side of the screen, indicating a boundary. Arrows 82, 84, and 87 point to specific segments within the grid. A large rectangular area on the right side of the screen is labeled 94 and 96.

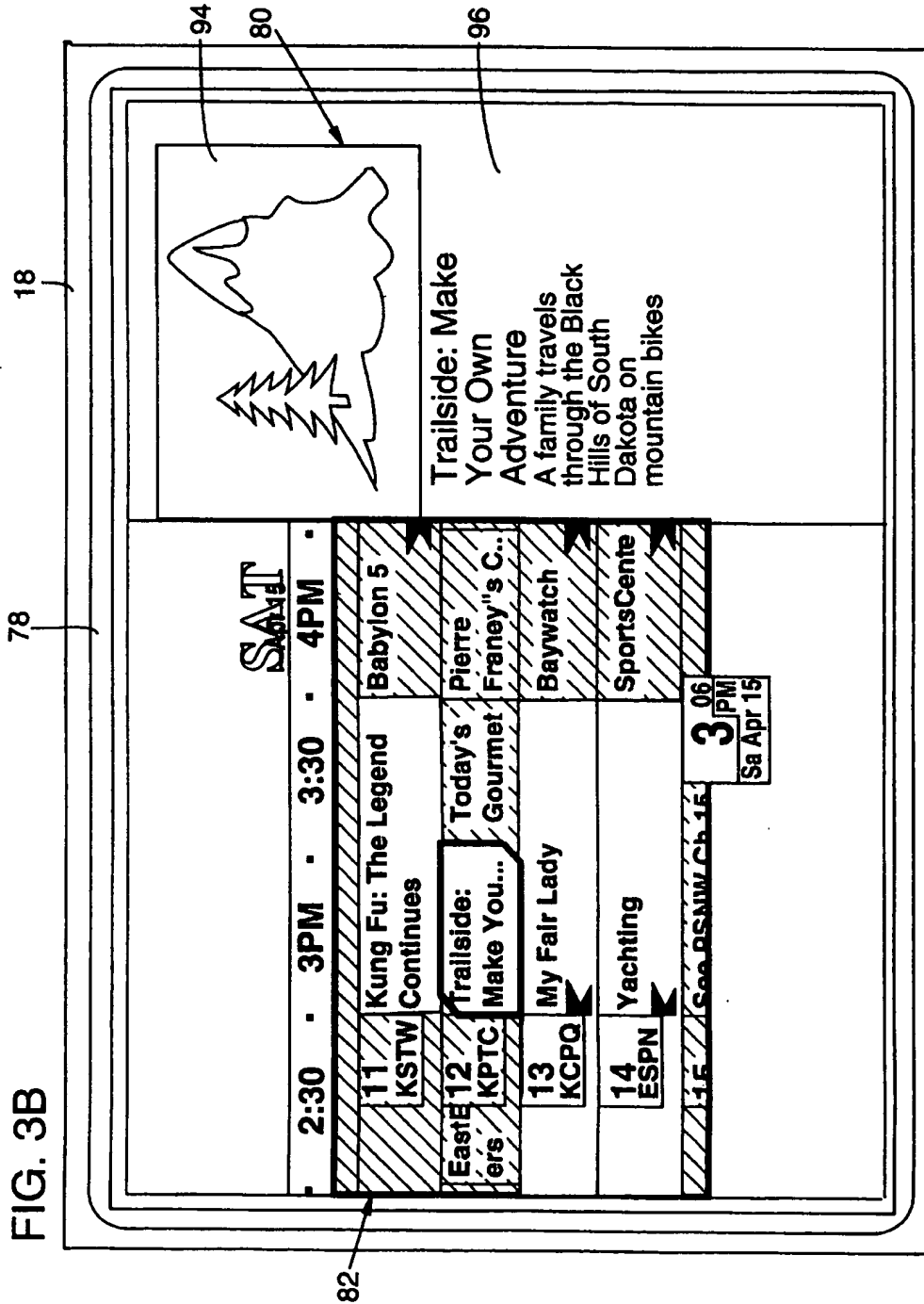


FIG. 5

